

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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change that was made in these new amendments. To qualify for the 5-cent gallon credit under Section (sic--subsection) (4), a plant would be required to expand its facility by at least 6 million gallons over its original capacity and also maintain an average production rate of at least 100 percent of its original capacity for 12 consecutive months. And if a plant would meet those requirements, they would be eligible for a 5-cent credit for a maximum of 10 million gallons. The other amendment or Section (sic--subsection) (3) relates to expanded or new production that would allow a 7-1/2 cent incentive for those producing and expanding for every 10 million gallons. Again, reviewing the checkoff, that will continue until December 31st of the year 2000. It would continue beginning January 1, 2000, at one-half cent and then continue through December 31st of the year 2000. And if the money then in...and that is when the five-year incentive program would actually end in regards to producers and any money in the EPIC Fund then that is not sufficient to pay all of the credits that would now be in place until 2003 would be divided up. I, again, would just like to state that the ethanol plants, I feel, have been good for the state of Nebraska, not only for our environment but also for our economy. I believe that we have made a substantial investment in the ethanol industry. Right now, we do have seven plants in Nebraska and we need to continue to get those plants continually to have them operating and ready to capitalize on any potential market that might lie ahead. With that, I will conclude and ask for your support on this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I do have an amendment to the Stuhr amendment. Senator Beutler, this is AM1386. (AM1386, Legislative Journal page 1584.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the Stuhr amendment to LB 605.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment does not contest the philosophy of this particular amendment, but rather asks that it be interpreted in a way that I think will benefit more of the producers. It says, essentially, there is a provision in the bill right now that